

# **MINUTES**

## **Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities**

Regular Meeting - Tuesday April 26, 2011

2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

- I. Recording Attendance: F. Goetz agreed to serve as the acting Chair and called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM.

Present: K. Grunwald (staff), F. Goetz, J. Sydney, J. Blanshard, J. Tanner, G. Bent, KA Easley (staff)

Regrets: W. Gibbs, Bryan Klimkiewicz,

- II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes for February 22, 2011 and March 22, 2011 meetings were approved as written, with the note that J. Sydney expressed her regrets for not attending.

- III. New Business (other added by majority vote)

- a. Introduction of new member: Newly appointed member Bryan Klimkiewicz was not present, and may not be able to join due to the time of the meeting. There was discussion re: time of the meeting. J. Tanner would prefer to meet in the

morning. It was decided that this will be discussed when the full membership is present. We will poll members via email.

- b. Election of Officers: J. Blanshard nominated F. Goetz as Chair, which was approved unanimously. F. Goetz nominated J. Tanner as Vice-Chair which she declined. J. Tanner nominated G. Bent as Secretary, which was approved unanimously. The office of Vice-Chair was tabled until more members are present at the next meeting.
- c. "Other":
  - Zoning Application for the Storrs Center Parking Garage/Intermodal Transportation Center. Concerns were raised about the parking at the Storrs Downtown, which is separate from this application. There will be a public hearing on May 4 for the parking garage, and the application has been sent to John DeWolf for his review. K. Grunwald will draft a memo to Planning and Zoning expressing the Committees interest in seeing that the building has adequate accessible parking spaces and that overall access to the building is accessible and review it with committee members prior to sending it to PZC.
  - Motion made for this committee to support Storrs Pharmacy as part of the Storrs Downtown. J. Blanshard would like to see Storrs Downtown offer Storrs Drug an accessible space at a reasonable rent. K. Grunwald will draft a letter (copy Nafuel Tajudeen) to that effect and send it to committee members for their approval. J.

Sydney suggested that Nafuel Tajudeen be invited to our next meeting, which was approved unanimously. K. Grunwald will check with Mike Nintean regarding whether or not the Friendly's building meets ADA requirements.

- G. Bent has received a call from someone questioning whether or not the door in the Community Center to the swimming pool meets ADA guidelines. K. Grunwald stated that it does, and that a request has been made to the Facilities Management Department to install an automatic door.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Committee goals for this year: 1) Continue to provide advocacy and oversight regarding the needs of residents with disabilities, focusing on access to buildings and services, transportation and overall quality of life; (2) Advocate for the development of the Storrs Downtown area as a fully accessible area; and (3) Develop and distribute a brochure for the Committee to increase community awareness regarding role and accomplishments.

The Committee reviewed these goals. G. Bent suggested getting brochures to the Library. K. A. Easley suggested that this would include enhancing the web page for this committee. She continues to post information and would be happy to add any information that committee members have.

G. Bent would like this committee to survey families who have adult children with disabilities as a goal for next year.

- b. Accessibility issues previously identified:

F. Goetz raised concerns about the chain across the driveway at Wrights Way. The Housing Authority has previously indicated that they would take the chain down on weekends, but this has not been done. K. Grunwald will draft a letter to the Housing Authority, with copies to the Town Council, K. Grunwald and the Board of the Mansfield Housing Authority.

K. Grunwald checked on signs at Big Y that J. Tanner had mentioned last month, and reported that all signs incorporate the \$150 fine.

J. Sidney raised concerns once again about handicap parking violations at Chang's Garden and Starbuck's Plaza. J. Blanshard suggested publicizing this issue, and K. Grunwald suggested using Mansfield Patch. J. Blanshard will contact Patch about an article on this issue.

V. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

The next meeting will be May 24, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald